Encadrement of Posts in CBEC

3909. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3879 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 2000 and state what has been the progress of encadrement of the posts of Chairman and members of Central Board of Excise and Customs within the Customs and Central Excise Service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : Sir, The issue is still under consideration.

Salient Features of Govinda Rao Committee

3910. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the salient points of the interim report of the Govinda Rao Committee on Service Tax ;

(b) the recommendations of the above Committee which were accepted by the Government and those not accepted ; and

(c) the reasons for non-acceptance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The salient points include :—

(i) comprehensive coverage of services under the tax net with a well-defined negative list;

(ii) exemption upto an annual turnover limit of Rs. 10 lakhs for small service providers ;

(iii) comprehensive CENVAT on goods and services by 2004-2005 ;

(iv) input credit facility within service sector immediately and inter-sectoral credits between goods and services alongwith the integration into CENVAT ;

(v) retention of service tax at the rate of 5% for the present;

(vi) enactment of a separate legislation for administration of service tax ;

(vii) improved administrative arrangement for collection of service tax ;

(b) The recommendations of the Committee are under examination.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Duties on Crude Oil and Petroleum Products

3911. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has approached for reduction in duties on crude oil and petroleum products so that 1st April, 2002 dateline for deregulation of petroleum sector is kept. and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, decision has been taken as yet.

Implementation of Budget for 2001-2002

3912. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New Deal Budget a raw deal" which appeared in the Times of India dated the 1st August, 2001 ;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ; and

(c) what corrective steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that the widely acclaimed dream budget of 2001-2002 does not go away with all-round deterioration in the financial scenario ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.